REMARKS

In a restriction requirement dated July 1, 2005, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I: Claims 1-9, drawn to a method for detecting viral protein-protein interactions; Group II: Claims 10-13, drawn to a peptide detected by the method of claim 1, and a pharmaceutical composition; Group III: Claim 14, drawn to a method for detecting specific viral protein epitopes in a biological sample; Group IV: Claim 15, drawn to an immunogenic composition comprising at least one epitope that elicits a protective response against infection; Group V: Claims 16-17, drawn to a peptide detected by the method of claim 14 and a therapeutic composition; Group VI: Claim 18, drawn to a method for delivering an *in vivo* expression vector encoding the peptide of claim 16 to an individual; Group VII: Claim 19, drawn to a method of diagnosing a viral infection in a biological sample; Group VIII: Claim 20, drawn to a method of diagnosing a viral infection in a biological sample; and Group IX: Claim 21, drawn to a diagnostic kit for the detection of a biological sample. Applicants elect to prosecute Group 1, Claims 1-9, drawn to a method for detecting viral protein-protein interactions.

Applicants have cancelled claim 5 and claims 10-21, and added new claims 22-24. Support for claims 22-24 is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 22, lines 3-12.

Accordingly, these claims do not add new matter. New claims 22-24 correspond to Group I, and are therefore drawn to an elected invention. For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that entry of claims 22-24 is appropriate.

Applicants note that claims 10-21 are cancelled solely because the Examiner has determined that these claims are drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants preserve the right to prosecute these claims in one or more divisional applications.

In addition to requiring that a group of claims be elected, the Examiner further required that a species be elected. The species identified by the Examiner are: a) specific virus libraries (no claims were given); b) libraries from claim 5; and c) protein in claim 7. (Office Action at Page 4, item 5.) Applicants provisionally elect a) a library from the hepatitis C genome (claim 2), and a library from a flavivirus (claim 3); b) the GRBHCVL1 library (claim 5); and a glycoprotein (claim 7), with traverse.

Applicants' first ground of traversal is that a search of the method of claim 1, practiced with a library prepared from a cloned viral genome that is from a virus selected from the group consisting of herpes virus, potyvirus, flavivirus, and pestivirus, as in claim 3, and a search of the method of claim 1, practiced with a library prepared from the hepatitis C viral genome or hepatitis G viral genome, as in claim 2, does not present an undo burden on the Examiner. For this reason, applicants respectfully submit that this aspect of the election requirement should be withdrawn.

Applicants further submit that a search of library GRBHCVL1 and a search of library GRBHCVL2, as in original claim 5, does not present an undue burden. Applicants note that claim 5 has been cancelled. However, new claim 22 recites the GRBHCVL1 library, new claim 23 the GRBHCVL2 library, and new claim 24 both the GRBHCVL1 and GRBHCVL2 libraries. Applicants submit that no election requirement between the GRBHCVL1 and GRBHCVL2 libraries should be applied to the new claims.

Specifically, the method of claim 1, from which claims 22-24 depend, requires **both** a library of randomly-generated genomic viral DNA fragments in a DNA-binding domain vector **and** a library of randomly-generated genomic viral DNA fragments in an activation domain vector. The GRBHCVL1 library is cloned in an activation domain vector and the GRBHCVL2 library is cloned in a DNA-binding domain vector. (*See* claims 22-24 and specification at page 22, lines 3-12.) The methods of the claims can not be practiced with a library cloned in a DNA-binding domain vector alone, or with a library cloned in an activation domain vector alone. At least one vector of each type must be used. Thus, any search of claims 1 and 22-24 requires a search of at least one library cloned in a DNA-binding domain vector—such as the GRBHCVL2 library—and at least one library cloned in an activation domain vector—such as the GRBHCVL1 library. For this reason, a search that encompasses both the GRBHCVL1 and GRBHCVL2 libraries can not present an undue burden.

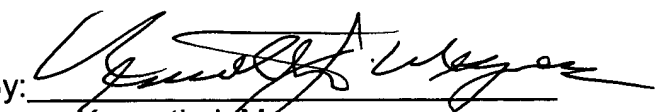
Applicants respectfully request the entry of this amendment and timely examination and allowance of the pending claims 1-4, 6-9, and 22-24.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 1, 2005

By: 

Kenneth J. Meyers
Reg. No. 25, 146